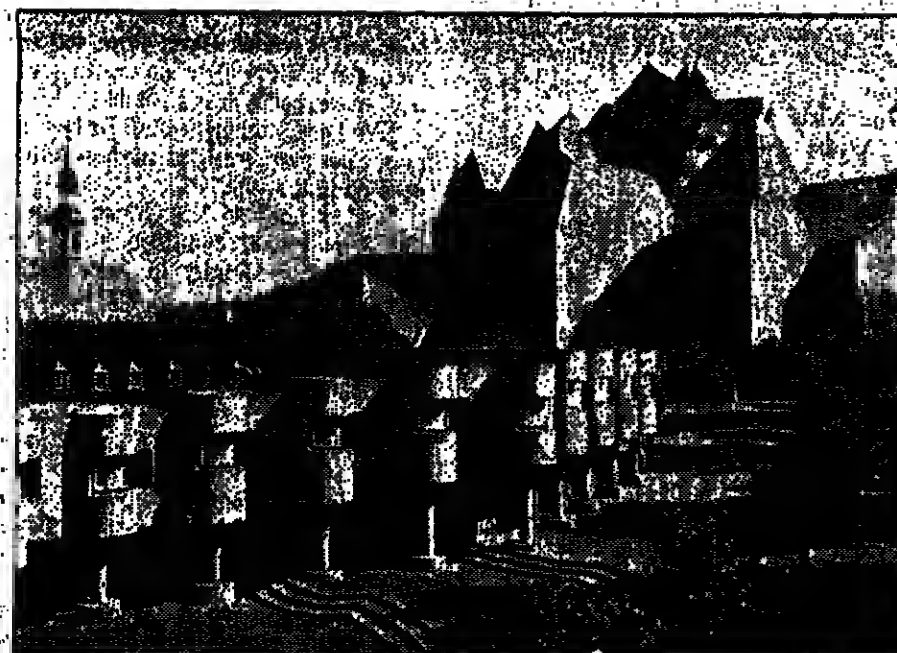


Germany's churches and cathedrals

Everyone knows, of course, that in Cologne, Worms, Freilburg, Aachen, Ulm and elsewhere ancient Gothic and Romanesque cathedrals tower up like castles into the sky. Impressive structures down to the very treasures in their vaults. For even here, in this land of industry, tourism, inter-city trains, airlines and motorways, churches, cathedrals and chapels have more than a spiritual function. They are reminders, thought-provoking. Cherished as

artistic masterpieces. Take, for instance, the delightful Romanesque church in Dalkirchen on the Lahn. Or the enchanting Wieskirche, surrounded by the woods and meadows of the Alpine foothills in Upper Bavaria. Clear, serene, rococo splendour. Just two examples from many thousands. "Churches," as James Joyce wrote in 1915 on a Rhine journey, "like miracles from heaven."



Bamberg, Bavaria

Velbert Neviges Church in the Ruhr

The German Tribune

Aug. 16 August 1981
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Bonn draws up plan for world peace

has visions of a world at peace, without nuclear weapons and means of destruction, with armed forces equipment solely to maintain public order and individual safety at home, and with a strong US peace-keeping

are the aim of a comprehensive disarmament programme the Bonn government has proposed to the UN General Assembly in Geneva.

are not just the blue-eyed dream of backroom boys. Total disarmament is the ultimate objective of a long and difficult, yet most realistically planned process of negotiation.

to draft is based on the final document of the first special UN General Assembly on disarmament held in Geneva in 1978 which called on the UN conference to draw up a comprehensive disarmament programme.

The task has since been tackled not only by the 40 Geneva conference delegates, including all the nuclear powers, and the working party delegated to Bonn with the job.

features of the programme have been drawn up by the UN disarmament commission in New York on behalf of all UN member-countries are reported.

Bonn government submitted a catalogue of principles to the Geneva conference last month and was so warmly received by the response that it decided to present a full programme draft.

was first checked with fellow-members of the European Community and formally seconded by the Austrian, Belgian, British and Japanese delegations.

is based on a long-term, international disarmament strategy aimed at progress towards general and complete disarmament subject to effective international supervision and con-

is also based on existing international agreements such as the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and the test-ban treaty in the atmosphere, in outer space and under water.

comes in the wake of international agreements on the use of poison gas, on biological warfare and on the development of particularly inhuman conventional weapons.

The programme is intended to be no more than a framework for negotiations to be held bilaterally, regionally, multilaterally and worldwide.

The basic principles envisaged are the maintenance of security of all countries at all stages of the disarmament process, the special responsibility of the nuclear powers for nuclear disarmament and the observation of the UN Charter throughout.

Disarmament talks as visualised by Bonn, while paying strict heed to

maintaining the balance of power, to be held in a specific sequence, with priority being given to nuclear arms and other weapons of mass destruction.

Then, and then only, will conventional arms and troop strengths come up for negotiation.

Partial solutions and regional arrangements are to be agreed wherever prospects appear realistic. Verifiability is deemed the touchstone of all disarmament and arms control measures.

The programme provides for moves to be undertaken in phases, with various kinds of activity complementing each other at all stages.

Arms limitation or troop cut talks would be accompanied by global and regional measures, particularly for purposes of confidence-building.

Nato reports must also be compiled with a view to submitting further proposals.

Last not least, progressive implementation of the programme would be reviewed at intervals by the UN disarmament commission.

In the first stage intensive continuation and completion of current talks at all levels of disarmament and arms control are recommended.

Priority objectives at this stage will include:

- a comprehensive test-ban treaty covering the circumstances in which nuclear explosions are to be sanctioned for peaceful purposes;
- continuation of the Salt process to limit and reduce nuclear weapons and similar negotiations on medium-range nuclear missiles;
- treaties banning the development, manufacture and stockpiling of chemical and radiological weapons;
- mutual, balanced force reduction and accompanying measures in Central Europe and, wherever they may prove feasible, elsewhere in the world; and
- negotiations on effective confidence-building measures and disarmament between parties to the Helsinki accords.

This wide-ranging negotiation process would be accompanied by agreements on international measures to protect non-nuclear states from nuclear attack, by global and regional confidence-building measures, by greater transparency in defence expenditure and by effective crisis management.

Later stages of the disarmament programme are to be fleshed out as time goes by, but a number of specific steps in the direction of total disarmament have already been pencilled in.

They include further agreements on nuclear non-proliferation, on the establishment of nuclear-free zones and on a ban on the development of nuclear weapons systems.

They aim at an embargo on the production of fissile material for military purposes, and end to the manufacture and deployment of nuclear weapons and a total phase-out of nuclear arms stockpiles.

Agreements are also envisaged banning the development of fresh weapons of mass destruction, environmental changes for military purposes and an arms race in the atmosphere or on the seabed.

Peace zones are to be set up in various parts of the world. Progressive limitations are to be imposed on making, buying and selling conventional armaments, while a gradual, balanced reduction in military spending is visualised.

The arms committee is to report to the UN General Assembly this autumn. The final draft comprehensive disarmament programme will then be submitted to the second special UN General Assembly on disarmament that is due to convene in New York next summer.

In drawing up its contribution towards the debate the Bonn government has concentrated strictly on what was felt to be feasible.

In gaining acceptance of its proposals it is counting on Third World support. There has been so much fighting in developing countries that the Third World has grown increasingly interested in disarmament.

Wolf J. Bell
General-Anzeiger, 6 August 1981



Neutron bomb: the humane alternative.

(Cartoon: Halzinger/Nordwest Zeitung)

Neutron bomb just tit for Soviet tat

The neutron bomb has been called a symbol of mental perversion because it destroys people while preserving materiel.

Yet as a tactical field weapon it is intended first and foremost as a defence against superior tank armies as maintained primarily by the Soviet Union.

The dispute in Europe in general and the Federal Republic of Germany in particular is based on the likely assumption that if Soviet tanks were to roll in over the Iron Curtain this is where the neutron device would be deployed.

Even if the decision is entirely up to the US government and even if the neutron bomb is to be stockpiled in the United States and not, for the time being, by US forces in Germany the debate is sure to continue.

This is partly because many German politicians stated either their own or their parties' views on the neutron bomb last time round.

That was when President Carter postponed going ahead with the device so as not to impose a burden on the talks with the Soviet Union that were then in progress.

President Reagan's decision to go ahead and manufacture the bomb tallies with his campaign pledge only to hold further disarmament talks with Moscow from a position of strength.

The Soviet government failed to reward Mr Carter's attitude. Instead it used the detente period to quietly implement its SS-20 missile programme as a political and military threat to Western Europe.

The Soviet missile programme has continued on page 8

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THE GERMAN TRIBUNE is conducting a readership survey. With some issues this week a reply-paid postcard is included. Please fill it in and return as quickly as possible.

REFUGEES

The Germans who came back from Russia

Germans from Russia — the very term is something that puzzles the public here.

And when thousands of these Germans from the other side of the Iron Curtain gathered for a rally in Wiesbaden recently, carrying placards saying "National Rally of Germans from Russia," onlookers were totally confused.

Those gathered outside the Rhine-Main Hall speaking a babel of languages were German-Russians or Russian-Germans — depending on how you want to look at it — who had been repatriated to Germany.

But these ethnic Germans themselves have no doubts whatsoever as to their identity. They regard themselves as Germans, despite the fact that they have lived in Russia for generations.

Photographs and other descriptive material displayed in the Rhine-Main Hall during the gathering told a tale of suffering and fortitude extending over many generations.

There were maps of Russia and pictures of towns and villages with such German names as Mannheim, Lindau, Glückstadt, Hoffnungstal, Heidelberg, Stuttgart, Karlsruhe and Kassel, located somewhere along the Black Sea or the Sea of Azov.

The history of ethnic Germans in Russia dates back to the Middle Ages. But this particular chapter goes back to Catherine II of Russia who, in 1762, started a drive for German immigrants.

In a manifesto a year later, the new settlers were given land to be theirs in perpetuity. The manifesto also granted them freedom of religion, tax exemption, municipal autonomy and the right to leave the country at will.

There were several tides of German settlers, initially mainly from Hesse; then came the Mennonites from north-western Germany, the area around Danzig (today's Gdansk) and Western Prussia. They were followed by people from the south of Germany — Bavarians and Swabians — and then came the groups from Pomerania and Silesia.

These Germans settled primarily in the uninhabited areas along the shores of the Volga River and the Black Sea, on the land.

But the imperial order giving these people full rights in perpetuity was rescinded in 1871 in all its aspects except freedom of religion.

This was followed by incitement against the colonists and, when World War I broke out, by open programs.

At the beginning of the war between Germany and the Soviet Union in June 1941, the Soviet Union began its elimination campaign against the ethnic Germans.

Tens of thousands were deported to remote areas of Siberia and Central Asia and held in forced labour camps.

Their property was confiscated and the Autonomous Socialist Soviet Republic of Volga Germans was dissolved. The Germans were treated as traitors and enemies of the people.

Though this accusation was officially withdrawn many years after war's end, discrimination remained.

The Soviet Union thus violates its own Constitution which describes it as a multinational state in which all ethnic groups are fully protected.

According to the 1979 census, there

were still 1.9 million people who regarded themselves as ethnic Germans in the Soviet Union. This makes them (in terms of population) number 14 in the list of 118 Soviet peoples.

But as an ethnic group the Germans were forced to live scattered among alien peoples such as the Kirgizians, the Uzbeks, the Tadzhiks and the Turkmens.

The national identity of ethnic Germans in Russia rests with their languages, religion and culture. But they have to struggle to retain this identity.

There are no German schools left nor are there any German parishes.

The few German newspapers that remain and scattered German lessons serve only as an alibi and are intended to create the impression that much is being done for the Germans in Russia.

According to the repatriates in Wiesbaden, the Germans in the Soviet Union are discriminated against, are subject to chicanery and they are threatened and punished when they dare to demand equal rights or administrative and cultural autonomy or, indeed, just freedom of religion.

Things are even worse when they want to apply for permission to be repatriated to Germany, pointing to the solemn undertakings by Catherine II and Alexander I.

The chicanery to which Germans in the Soviet Union are subjected is demonstrated by long lists of individual destinies compiled by the repatriates. It ranges from the sudden drafting of exit visa applicants into the army all the way to their disappearance.

This persecution drive has resulted in fewer repatriates.

More and more Poles are being driven to the West because of food shortages and the fears of a Soviet invasion.

A favourite haven is the Federal Republic of Germany, Hamburg is the most popular city.

Some 1,000 Poles have applied for political asylum in Hamburg since the beginning of the year, and the number is rising from month to month. Applications for political asylum stand little chance of success; but even so, no Pole will be sent back.

Sweden and Austria are also gaining in favour with Polish refugees because neither requires them to have a visa.

The Polish Refugee Council in Stockholm estimates the tide at about 150 people a day. But some 90 per cent of the applications for residence permits are rejected.

The Refugee Council has therefore called on the Stockholm Labour Ministry to take action to inform the Poles before they leave their country about the difficulties in being granted political asylum in Sweden.

And even should they be given asylum in the end, the processing of the applications takes about a year on average, during which time the refugees receive no financial support and are issued no work permits.

The Austrian refugee camp in Traiskirchen near Vienna is bubbling at the seams.

According to Otto von Habsburg, who recently visited Traiskirchen, Austria can



Mother Teresa in Berlin

Mother Teresa, Nobel peace prize winner, last month visited a Red Cross home in Berlin where Sri Lankans are living while their applications for asylum are processed.

In 1976 there were close to 10,000 German repatriates from the Soviet Union compared with not quite 7,000 last year and forecasts for this year indicate that their number will be in the region of 4,500.

The reason given by the Soviet Union is that the interest in repatriation has diminished. But the German Red Cross knows of some 100,000 applications while the repatriates' organisation estimates that more than 300,000 ethnic Germans would like to be repatriated.

In any event, only those with relatives in West Germany can even hope to get an exit visa.

The expatriates' organisation now pins its hopes on Brezhnev's next visit to Bonn when it is hoped that this country's government will once more raise the issue of family reunification.

Only last year, the Chancellor said in an after-dinner speech in Moscow: "There is still an unsolved problem between our two countries that leads to much human suffering. I mean the fate

of separated families. This is the heart rather than the head."

But what was said about the matter in the closing communique consists of two worlds. Yet the bourgeois world has no idea

This history of the German is a sequence of dashed hopes. In Germany 200 years ago to escape religious and political persecution, they made a better life for themselves.

But no sooner did they settle thanks to hard work, than they were deprived of the fruits of their labour.

They were discriminated against, chased from their homes or

Despite their official rejection they have been unable to live among equals.

Many of them hope that they last achieve this by returning to original homeland. But the prospect is dim.

Bernd Erich Höpfer
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung, Deutschland, 16 Aug. 1981)

Poles line up for a place in the West

no longer cope with the flood of Polish refugees — a flood which already costs that small country the equivalent of DM150,000 a day.

Ninety per cent of these people cannot be regarded as political refugees in terms of the UN Refugee Convention, he says.

The Hamburg Aliens Department takes the same stance because the Poles who arrive here cannot be regarded as politically persecuted. Most of them come for purely economic reasons.

In April, 117 Poles filed asylum applications. In May 125 did; in June 129; and more than 200 are expected in July.

The liberalisation in Poland encouraged travel to the West; and the German Embassy in Warsaw has cut to a minimum the red tape for tourist visas.

A Polish asylum seeker in Hamburg: "There are long queues of shoppers just about everywhere in Warsaw, but the longest queue is that outside the German Embassy."

The visa enables Poles to spend up to three months in the Federal Republic of Germany, and the Polish authorities grant exit visas without much fuss or bother.

But when passing through the GDR,

whether by train or by car, the Poles subjected to much official chicanery.

The reason is obvious: the East German government is annoyed at the handling of exit visas in Poland.

As a rule, the Poles spend several days in Hamburg before deciding on the move; then they either file an application or just spend a few weeks in a wait-and-see attitude, hoping conditions at home will improve enable them to return to their country.

In fact, the number of those who hope to return could well exceed the asylum applicants.

Many of the Poles in Hamburg with friends or work without a permit gain a living.

But even those who file an application risk nothing. Like all asylum seekers they receive social fare to the tune of DM330 a month, free lodging, medical care, vocational training and German lessons.

And even should the asylum application be turned down they cannot be deported under the terms of an agreement among German state interior ministers dating back to 1966.

The agreement provides that a refugee from the East Bloc may be deported. As a result, Poles whose application has been turned down given residence and work permits have to be renewed annually.

Robert A. Hoffman
(Hamburger Abendblatt, 16 Aug. 1981)

SOCIETY

Monotony, frustration, isolation, bitterness: life on the assembly line

Schobel, a Roman Catholic chaplain in Böblingen, near Stuttgart, has written a book, *Dem menschlichen Leben* (At the Mercy of the Assembly Line).

The tale of a holiday job on the assembly line at Daimler-Benz, where he had once worked for several years, is how he sees himself how the other workers.

He doesn't look like Don Camillo or Yuck. He has gentle features, wears glasses, has sensitive hands and walks with a slight stoop.

He wouldn't think he could survive the rigors of hard work. But appearances are deceptive. He is a forest worker's son and has staying power.

The longer I share my life with assembly line workers," he writes, "the more I realise that society increasingly consists of two worlds. Yet the bourgeois world has no idea of the other world even exists."

He is one of the few who still live at home in both. He is a 41-year-old who since 1972 has on three occasions swapped his office desk with an assembly line job at Daimler-Benz in Böblingen.

He did so because he felt it was not enough to work from the outside as a works chaplain.

What he experienced could only be described as depressing were it not that he



felt it gave him an incentive to help bring about changes.

His book, according to a Portuguese workmate, articulates the outcry of all car industry workers, even of those who no longer as much as complain.

He spent his first spell as a car worker nine years ago in the workshop where front axles were put together and engines mounted.

He did the work while others were on holiday and chose not to tell his workmates what he normally did for a living (he didn't want to make them feel uneasy); only the management knew.

He began by fixing radiator fans and gear shift linkages to the front axle unit. For the final fortnight he was promoted to crew inspector.

It was hard work, and Schobel makes no bones about his views and experiences. Beginners are bound to go home with fingers aching and bleeding.

By the same token they are bound to be kept on their toes by the speed of the assembly line, yet car workers incessantly try to get a few minutes' rest so they can go to the toilet or step outside for a moment.

Checking, he writes, is frightfully stupid and numbing, while the mad rush to the totally inadequate number of time clocks when the shift is over is inhuman. So is the traffic chaos that regularly follows.

Shift workers, who continue to make up the overwhelming majority of workers in the car industry, are 80 per cent isolated from social life, Schobel claims.

Husbands and wives who work different shifts only see each other at weekends, with the result that divorce has become an epidemic at Daimler-Benz, as one worker bitterly notes.

Stomach trouble, and complaints of the digestive tract are typical for shift workers, he finds.

There were 20 Germans in his department. Three were alcoholics and four had heart trouble. That was the price they paid for a combination of monotony and mad rush.

There have been changes since he first worked at Daimler-Benz, partly as a result of the work humanisation wage agreement in North Württemberg and North Baden.

But in the postscript to the book Franz Steinkühler, Stuttgart regional head of IG Metall, the metalworkers' union, admits that:

"When I first read the manuscript the question that immediately came to mind was whether this was all trade union activity had achieved. Had we been unable to accomplish greater changes in inhuman working conditions?"

In much assembly line work monotony is the most serious problem. "Once the hooter sounds to mark the start of the shift," Schobel writes, "eight hours of destiny embark on their inexorable course."

"There isn't going to be any relief, there will be no climaxes, probably not even interruptions. You will simply spend eight hours doing exactly the same work."

"There is not the slightest measure of freedom. Everything is prearranged and programmed. There is never any need to stop and think."

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Noise, heat, headaches In the Congo

Noise too is a problem. For hours after work your head aches, Schobel writes. Heat is another. On hot summer days men work in temperatures of 32 degrees centigrade or more in a workshop nicknamed the Congo.

How do workmates react to their working conditions? Schobel reckons most no longer realise how underprivileged they are as a result, say, of working one shift one week and another the next.

During his first spell on the assembly line he came across a single workmate who was still aware enough to appreciate that: "slowly but surely you just grow stupid."

A shop steward was later to tell him that working at the assembly line was working in a concentration camp; slightly more refined, but not much. But views such as these were isolated exceptions to the rule.

The only indication that many shift workers are aware of their condition is

their determination to ensure that the children get a better education and need not work at the assembly line.

Otherwise they seem to have resigned themselves to their lot and to limit conversation to football.

Asked what changes they would like to see, a number of workers can think of nothing other than being paid by the month rather than by the week.

All this would mean, apart from a putative gain in status, is being paid earlier. Many old hands who have worked at Daimler-Benz for decades add that in the good old days they could assemble a complete fender unit individually.

"They really oughtn't to have subdivided the work like that at the assembly line," they wistfully say.

Assembly line and shift workers unleash their aggression in many ways. Schobel describes them; so do nine workmates who contributed articles to his book.

Says Willi, a supervisor who has worked at Sindelfingen for 25 years: "It makes me laugh when they talk about comradeship or a cordial atmosphere at work." "What riles me most," says Tonio, an Italian, "is the envy and hatred among workmates."

A Portuguese car worker who feels homesick says he is disgusted by the racism shown by German workers (about whom foreign workers have barely a good word to say):

"All the time they tell us we will be sent packing unless we do as we are told."

Yet he readily adds that whenever there is a job going where less work needs doing, and even if only turning one screw fewer, foreign workers will at times behave so badly that German workers must all be like that.

So there are any number of pointers to a lack of solidarity and the blinkered mental outlook of workers who think mainly in terms of money, leisure, holidays and property as compensation for being "bunied alive" or "chained to the assembly line."

Schobel also notes that many workers have spent so many years doing monotonous jobs that they prefer it that way, being afraid that any other work might show them up for having forgotten how to think for themselves.

The book has been attentively read at Daimler-Benz, says a spokesman for the board of directors. A number of problems will be looked into, such as the possible link between working different shifts and divorce.

But the company does not feel the book is representative of the attitude taken by most Daimler-Benz workers towards their job.

Father Schobel comes from a different social and educational background, has an entirely different viewpoint and thus projects expectations of work that workmates themselves do not have.

He has heard this one before. "What-ever would happen, he has often been asked, if an unskilled workers were to start giving sermons?"

Part of the intention behind his book is to draw attention to the extent to which the Roman Catholic Church has drifted apart from working people and their world. But not everyone is prepared to accept the message.

Not far from his works chaplaincy office in Böblingen a young bookseller has her doubts about the implications of his book, which is selling briskly.

"Who is paid DM3,000 a month just for a movement of the arm?" she asks, graphically illustrating with a gesture of the arm how she imagines assembly line work to be.

Peter Hankel
(Frankfurter Rundschau, 29 July 1981)

■ BUSINESS

Unveiling the culprit:
commercial performance

German business has lost much of its competitiveness: this, more than the oil-price explosion, is the reason for the economic problems of the Federal Republic.

Signs of the problem are:

- a dramatic change in the balance of payments, which have gone from a healthy surplus to a huge deficit in a couple of years.
- continuing high unemployment.
- a deficit in the traditionally positive balance of trade.

There are many reasons for the deterioration.

In world trade, the Federal Republic still ranks at the top and is second only to the United States as an exporter.

Germany is still the most important supplier of industrial goods and the West's greatest exporter to the East Bloc.

But this position is owed primarily to the dynamism of the 1960s.

Ever since, Germany's growth rate and industrial production have fallen back. So has its growth rate in world trade.

This means that German business has lost market shares — in some instances even for products in which this country has traditionally held a leading position — as with machinery, vehicles and chemicals.

The past 10 years have seen a decline in Germany's share of the world's industrial output from 9.1 to 7.7 per cent and its share in world exports from 13 to 10 per cent.

Foreign goods have been gaining in domestic markets: about one-quarter of the German market last year, compared with only one-tenth 20 years ago.

Foreign capital goods have made particularly heavy inroads: German industry used to be virtually unchallengeable in this field.

While the share of imported capital goods was only 10 per cent in the early 1960s, it has risen to close to 25 per cent.

Even growth branches of industry like machinery, road vehicles and electronics are now feeling the pinch on the home market.

Consumer goods such as shoes, textiles, clothing, ceramics and glassware

Continued from page 1

continued, without anything comparable lined up against it in the West, and it is being brought to a swift conclusion.

So the Soviet missile build-up continues even though the Kremlin may be shedding crocodile tears over President Reagan's decision and even though it talks as though peace were jeopardised by the neutron bomb rather than by the Soviet SS-20 missile.

Soviet excitement is for the most part a bid to exert influence on the further course of debate in Europe on the Nato decision to negotiate (but, failing success at the conference table, to rearm too).

The neutron bomb will, even though it may not be immediately associated with the subject, intensify debate.

Disarmament talks must necessarily deal with a reduction in the more dangerous weapons. The neutron bomb cannot be a topic for disarmament talks until it exists.

Achim Melchers
(Westdeutsche Allgemeine Zeitung,
10 August 1981)

have come under even heavier pressure from abroad.

The declining export performance of the 1970s on the one hand and growing imports on the other were largely due to the deutschmark appreciation which amounted to about 50 per cent against the currencies of our major trading partners between 1970 and 1978.

This trend was particularly pronounced in the exchange rate against the British pound, the Italian lira and the US dollar.

Even considering that Germany's inflation rate during that time was considerably lower than elsewhere, the deutschmark appreciation nevertheless made German goods abroad more expensive and foreign goods on the German market cheaper.

To make matters worse, the 1970s saw the development of Germany into a high wage country.

The average increase of wages and salaries in manufacturing industry between 1970 and 1980 was an annual 10 per cent, which was twice the increase in productivity.

This means that the wage cost per unit with its decisive bearing on competitiveness increased by an average five per cent a year during that period.

Naturally, branches of industry with a below average productivity rise have been hit hardest.

The increase of productivity has become less pronounced in the past 10 years compared with the preceding two decades.

Though other industrial countries have experienced a similar development, German productivity has now started lagging further behind, especially compared with such competing countries as

Cartel office seeks powers
beyond national borders

The German Federal Cartel Office wants it powers to ban mergers extended across international borders.

This would mean that mergers involving German subsidiaries abroad or foreign firms in the Federal Republic could be prevented.

The cartel office banned the merger of the Paris firm, Firestone, with the French subsidiary of the Bayer concern, Bayer-France.

But a German court over-ruled it.

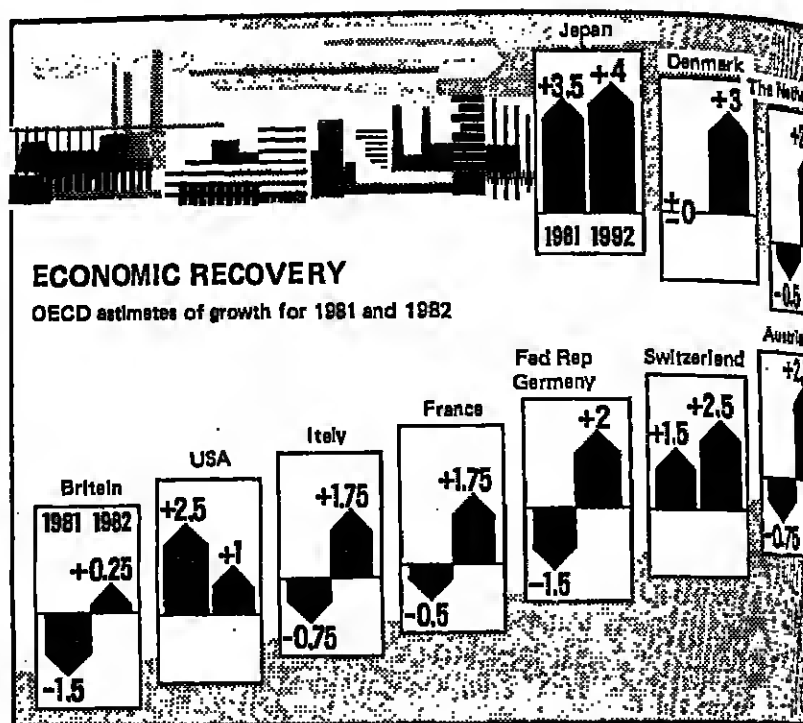
The fact that trade is international but that trade practices apply only within national boundaries has long irked German anti-trust officials.

Mergers are the most prominent bone of contention.

The problem with mergers involving foreign firms is that international legal points are raised.

Another problem is that of enforcement in foreign countries.

Here, close cooperation with the EEC Commission in Brussels would seem the answer because articles 85 and 86 of this Community Treaty preclude the mergers of industrial giants if this will lead to unfair competition.



Japan, France, Austria, Italy, Norway and Sweden.

One of the reasons given for poor productivity today is that the deutsche mark was undervalued in the 1950s and 1960s, which gave German manufacturers an edge in international competition. Since business was booming at that time, industries postponed or scrapped investment projects that would have been needed to increase productivity and thus secure competitiveness in the long run.

As the Kiel Institute for World Economy succinctly observed recently, German business thus extended the use of its capital goods and delayed introducing new technologies that would have improved their productivity.

Since the deutsche mark was undervalued, Germany became a favourite target of foreign direct investment in the form of new foreign-owned industries.

While Germany imported many inadequately skilled foreign workers other highly developed industrial countries resorted to new home-made technologies.

Rising wages in Germany in the 1970s and, in their wake, dwindling

profits curtailed investments in technologies that would have brought productivity.

The depreciation of the deutsche mark in recent months has naturally brought certain improvement in our competitiveness.

Taking into account that other countries have higher inflation rates and are thus against our own increases since the last quarter of 1980, there remains a 10 to 15 per cent advantage for German goods on international markets.

But the deutsche mark weakness means that imported goods have become more expensive and are boosting inflation rate which offsets some of the advantages of the deutsche mark depreciation.

As a result, the only way of coping with the problems caused by the price explosion is to improve our competitiveness and this can only be achieved by boosting productivity and keeping wages and thus costs down.

Lothar Adler
(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung,
Deutsche, 4 August 1981)

One way out would be to change the rope's merger control system. But a draft to that effect stands little chance of being approved by the Council Ministers.

As a result, the Federal Cartel Office and the Bonn Ministry of Economics want this country to take the initiative.

Both base their move on the German Anti-Trust Law which (in Section 2) states: "The Anti-Trust Law applies to all measures restricting competition that affect Germany even if they are implemented abroad."

Professor Kurt Markard of the cartel office, interprets the application of German merger controls very broadly. He insists that the Office should scrutinise even mergers of purely foreign companies if such action will have effect on business in Germany.

It is hard to understand why our lawmakers in this sector do not adopt the argument of a German court that ruled the ban on the Bayer-France merger on the grounds of the preponderance of the effects of the merger was not in this country.

But should the preponderance be in Germany, the court would have upheld the ban.

What matters is to see things from a perspective.

Peter Wenzel
(Die Welt, 2 August 1981)

Commercial banks are finding it increasingly difficult to recycle oil money markets for its refinancing needs rather than to well-to-do member nations.

The World Bank, with its subsidiaries IDA and IFC, is still recovering from the retirement of Robert McNamara after 13 years in office.

As president of the organisation, McNamara increased its credit volume from less than \$1bn in 1968 to \$11.5bn in 1980.

The World Bank is at present involved in more than 1,600 projects in 100 countries and the capital has always been obtained from the international money markets.

McNamara's successor, Alden Clausen — formerly in charge of Bank of America's Third World financing — has inherited an ambitious programme: The bank intends to grant new credits to the tune of \$30bn by 1985.

McNamara considered this huge development volume necessary to keep pace with the population explosion in Asia, Latin America and Africa.

As he saw it, the population growth would be decisive for the future of mankind.

According to the commercial banks,

■ FINANCE

Oil cash, Third World
syndrome intensifies

see the IMF going to the international money markets for its refinancing needs rather than to well-to-do member nations.

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On top of the East-West and the North-South tension, we now also have our West-West problems. They range from economic and monetary issues to defence, the Middle East and trade with the East Bloc.

The Ottawa economic summit has not helped mend the rift but has instead only highlighted it.

As in the case of France, where Mitterrand (and with him the Communists) came to power because Chirac and Giscard were at loggerheads, the West-West problems could easily turn into tension that would so weaken the West politically and socially as to make its new military strength useless.

A closer look at the situation shows that there is a subspecies of West-West tension within the European Community.

Leo Tindemans has just publicly confirmed that the Community is in the grip of a severe crisis.

The unsatisfactory state of the EEC is as undeniable as is the fact that all its members greatly benefit from it — and this includes the Germans and the British.

A whopping 43 per cent of Britain's exports go to the Community; and it is easy to imagine the position the UK would be in if, instead of a Common Market, it were faced with tariffs and trade barriers.

It is the politicians' job to solve problems. The position of the European Community can and must be improved before other West-West problems lead to an erosion of the Common Market. This is particularly so considering that the Community represents the only bit of true European peace.

There are two concrete proposals I have to put forward:

One: The European Parliament is better than its reputation. Yet it lags far behind the hopes the European electorate pinned on it when giving it its mandate.

What is there to prevent the Euro-

reasonable balance of payments and medium-term growth are to be achieved.

Galloping inflation frequently forces the Fund to insist on economic measures that must lead to a short-term decline in economic performance.

The prescription can be summed up in one word: austerity.

Though the idea of austerity is discomfiting, the IMF has little choice but to walk the tightrope between anti-inflationary policy and economic collapse as a means of eventually achieving acceptable growth coupled with an acceptable balance of payments and free trade.

Any politicking of the IMF would be disastrous, as would be any yielding to the demand for soft loans.

At the September 1980 annual IMF and World Bank meeting, representatives of some developing countries called for a one-country-one-vote system (as opposed to the present system in which the main providers of capital also have the greatest say).

If these Third World countries were to prevail, it would mean that the control over the money would not necessarily rest with only those Third World politicians whose prime interests are growth and economic stability.

As a Dresdner Bank spokesman put it, if this happened, we could forget about the IMF as an international institution. The Fund would degenerate into an outside inflation machine.

Jan Jöhn
(Rheinischer Merkur/Christ und Welt,
31 July 1981)

■ THE EEC

Two steps to reduce
the tensions

MPs from exerting pressure on the Council of Ministers and the Commission?

For instance: the parties could put forward identical motions in both the national Parliaments and the European Parliament. In Strasbourg, the commissioners and ministers can still resort to evasion.

Not so in Bonn or London or Rome or Paris where they would have to put their cards on the table.

This is what we once did with the Monnet Committee and it turned out that the procedure worked.

Two: Since the Brussels machinery is cumbersome it tends to postpone rather than decide. The result is a vast accumulation of motions and proposals that have not been attended to. The whole procedure is confusing and obstructive rather than progressive.

But it would be disastrous to blame everything on bureaucracy. Like bureaucrats the world over, the Brussels Eurocrats sit in jobs that have been created by the politicians; and like their brethren elsewhere they harp on norms, standards and regulations.

One of the reasons for the inertia in Brussels is the EEC decision-making process that has made consensus one of its holy cows.

This means that a member-nation which is not or not yet prepared to go along with a decision can hold up the entire process.

This consensus fanaticism has prompted the Commission and its staff to work out proposals in a manner conducive to such a consensus.

The procedure is such as to prevent bargaining and wrestling for a com-

promise through pressure and give and take.

The Treaty of Rome provided for majority decisions rather than consensus. But there was the crisis of 1965 when France was outvoted on a number of important issues and refused to abide by the majority decision.

The crisis was solved by a resolution to the effect that, whenever important interests of a member nation are at stake, negotiations must continue until a solution has been found that is acceptable to all.

All concerned, including de Gaulle, interpreted this to mean that no country can be outvoted on vital matters — and there are unlikely to be more than two or three such issues every year.

But in today's practice this ruling is applied to all issues, and this can hardly function.

The governments of the member nations should be forced by a binding resolution to inform the Commission, complete with reasons, which questions of the coming year (so far as predictable) they regard as vital in terms of the 1966 resolution.

If this were done, nobody would want the embarrassment of being ridiculed about the issues considered vital. This would separate the wheat from the chaff, enable the Eurocrats to concentrate on their work — thus speeding up the processes — and leave room for compromise.

Has anybody got a better suggestion?

Rainer Barzel
(Die Welt, 5 August 1981)

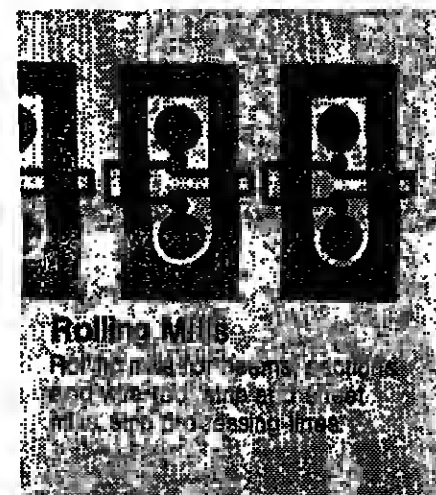
Rainer Barzel is chairman of the Bundestag foreign affairs committee.

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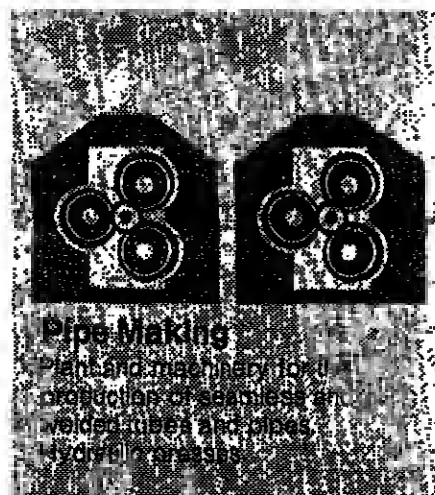
Machinery, Plants and Systems



Metallurgical Plant
Integrated blast furnaces, steel mills, continuous casters, electrometallurgical plant.



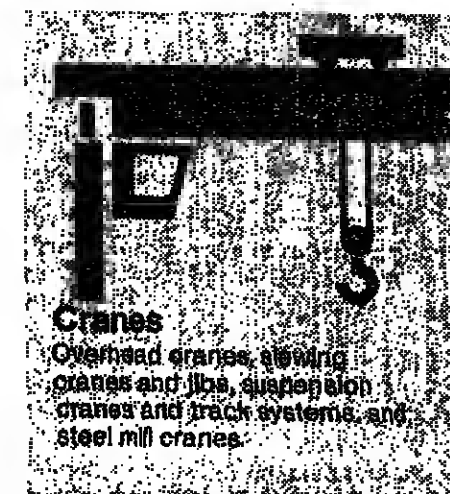
Rolling Mills
Hot and cold rolling mills, sheet mills, strip mills, coil mills.



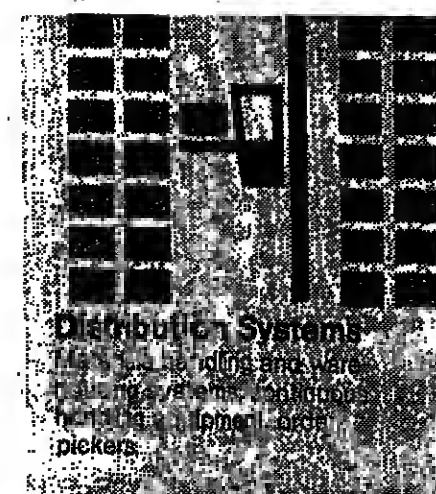
Pipe-Making
Plant and machinery for the production of seamless and welded pipes, steel pipes, and stainless steel pipes.



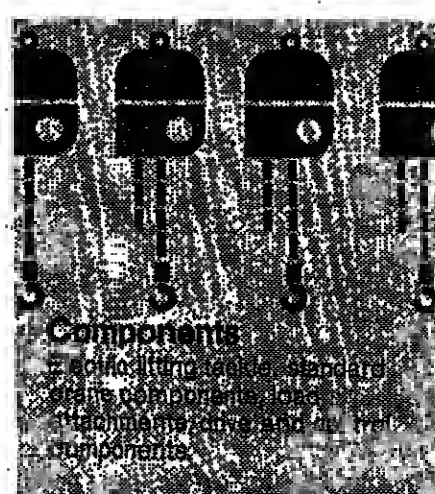
Compressors
Centrifugal compressors and positive displacement machines for air and inert gases.



Cranes
Overhead cranes, electric cranes and lifts, suspension cranes and track systems, and steel mill cranes.



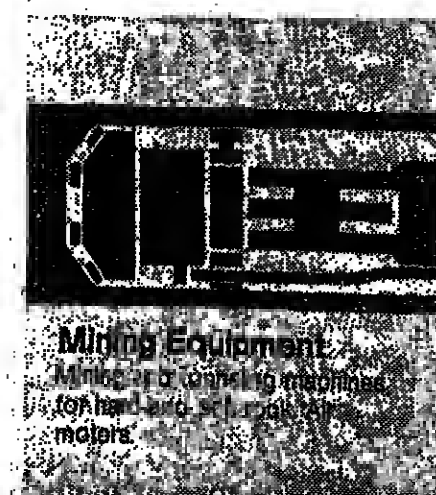
Distribution Systems
Material handling and conveying systems, storage systems, and picking systems.



Components
Electric drives, gears, bearings, shafts, couplings, and other mechanical components.



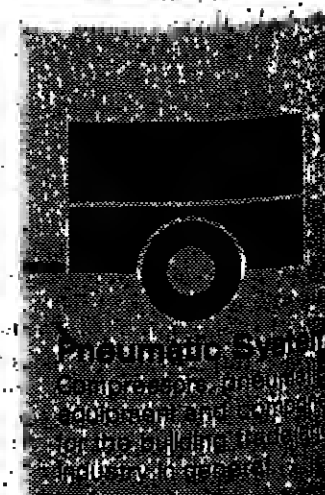
Bulk Handling
Bucket-wheel excavators, reclaimers and belt conveyors, systems, container handling systems.



Mining Equipment
Mining and conveying machines, transporters, and sorting machines.



Construction Equipment
Excavators, bulldozers, graders, and other construction machinery.



Pressure Vessels
Storage tanks, heat exchangers, and other pressure vessels.

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Wallowing in its own muck... the Afran Zenith at work in Hamburg.

(Photo: Freigeig. LA HH 5023/S1 G. Aumer)

THE ENVIRONMENT

Oil tanker spill in Hamburg a warning that next time it might be worse

hundred tons of crude oil spilled into the River Elbe in Hamburg last year when a 87,000 ton Liberian tanker ran aground.

Only last year the advisory panel on environmental affairs to the Bonn Minister wrote that an oil tanker chemical transporter mishap could be a major disaster, but several tons of crude oil spilled into the Elbe when a Liberian tanker, the Zenith, sprung a leak in Ham-

burg was lucky to get off so easily. It is the second-largest oil port in Germany (the largest being Wilhelmshaven). Nineteen oil processors have factories in the city.

The combined annual capacity is 15 million tons, and about 10 million tons are shipped in by sea. A tanker of over 100 tons reaches Hamburg every two days.

The port of Hamburg and its refinery 110km (70 miles) inland, up the Elbe, is the shipping lane upstream is 15 km deep. Large oil tankers when laden head inland only a few miles clear of the river bed.

The wake of the near-disaster ship Curilla, Hamburg's head of environmental affairs, said it was high time the oil pipeline from Wilhelmshaven to Hamburg was built.

There has been talk of building a pipeline between the two cities for the last 12 years.

The city's economic affairs department, which is mainly concerned with port and shipping, says the pipeline is a matter for private enterprise, and the city has not been keen to go ahead with the idea.

World Wilhelmshaven be prepared to take more tankers? A pipeline would cost a packet. But the cost is likely to be paid to another project that has been mooted for years.

It is the plan for a major oil terminal to be built on an island in the Elbe estuary.

Even so, it is wise to allow large tankers full of oil or even more dangerous liquids to sail into the middle of cities, even though the city may depend on its port and allied industries for a living?

Alfons Pawelczyk, head of Hamburg's home affairs department, would like to see ships screened more carefully before they sail up the Elbe to the city.

But this may not be practicable to the extent necessary. Pilots merely come on board with a check list of questions they put to the captain.

They deal with the captain's qualifications and those of his officers and with the ship's safety. The captain answers them and the pilot hardly has time to check the answers thoroughly.

The pollution danger is by no means limited to cities, however. The entire North Sea from the Elbe estuary to the Thames is so busy that 50 per cent of the world's collisions between ships over 500 tons occur in this sector.

In 1981 an estimated 655 million tons of crude oil and petroleum products will be shipped round the North Sea between London and Hamburg.

The North Sea is one of the most heavily polluted in the world, polluted by shipping, by what the rivers pour into it and by what is dumped in its waters.

This creeping pollution, the Bonn experts ruled, is even more insidious than the risk of a supertanker mishap.

An estimated 23,000 tons of crude oil a year find their way into the North Sea due to carelessness, technical shortcomings or deliberate pumping of bilges.

There have been a few improvements in recent years. Taking pilots has been made mandatory on more routes. One-way lanes and clearer right-of-way regulations have been introduced in the German Bight and the North Sea generally.

Since May 1981 the Safety of Life at Sea code has been in force. One of its provisions is that all tankers must have a second, emergency engine and steering system.

In Hamburg the Afran Zenith reportedly went out of control because the ship's electricity system blacked out. But the new provisions only apply to new ships.

The Afran Zenith was built in a Spanish yard in 1972.

International agreements also include one on marine pollution. It was reached in 1973 but has yet to come into force.

Were its provisions enforced all over the world, the Bonn report said, the marine environment could be rated substantially better protected.

They include many technical details such as the requirement that tankers be equipped with double bulwarks. But many experts are opposed to this idea because dangerous gases could collect between them.

Marpol also governs the arrangement and size of tanks on board a tanker with a view to keeping spillage to a minimum. It likewise prohibits bilge pumping in most waters.

There is a further international agreement governing the qualifications of seamen on board tankers.

Time and again one hears tales of ships with untrained crews, of master's tickets that can be bought for a small fee at certain consulates and of national shipping authorities that turn a blind eye to such practices.

Marpol and the agreement on qualifications would put paid to them. Port authorities would be entitled to refuse ships permission to enter or, if they are found wanting when already in port, to immobilize them.

But Marpol is not yet in force and will not be until it is ratified by 10 countries. This should be the case next year, when the Common Market countries jointly complete ratification procedures. Bonn has already approved the agreements.

Countries that have already ratified Marpol, incidentally, include Liberia, a flag of convenience and one of the countries invariably blamed for poor safety at sea.

But not even the best of regulations can make tankers, and their dangerous cargo paragon of safety, and certainly not in a river or port.

Hamburg's Senator Curilla is surely right in saying that an accident can only be ruled out once large tankers no longer sail up the Elbe to the oil terminal.

It is incomprehensible in the circumstances that neither in Hamburg nor elsewhere along the North Sea have adequate oil-fighting precautions been introduced.

There are several ambitious plans for coping with oil slicks, however. One was drawn up in April 1980 by a committee set up by the Bonn government and the Lander Lower Saxony, Schleswig-Holstein, Bremen and Hamburg.

It provides for investment totalling roughly DM100m, but by the end of 1981 no more than DM15m will have been spent. At present, the committee says, investment has only reached DM9m.

Of this, DM7.5m has been paid to buy the Osterfor, a former oil rig supply vessel that is shortly to start conversion into an oil-fighting ship.

Last year Bonn also reached agreement with the oil companies on making ships available to take damaged tankers in tow and with salvage companies on making salvage vessels available.

Both agreements are ready to be signed but that is reportedly as far as has been got.

Hamburg this year was, as of June, to invest DM505,000 in the programme drawn up jointly by Bonn and the coastal Lander.

A December 1980 report to the Federal government listed the oil-fighting facilities then available along Germany's North Sea coast.

They included chemical dispersal agents for mopping up slicks, five vessels to take slick oil on board and several hundred metres of mobile breakwaters.

There was also a specially equipped catamaran based in Cuxhaven. It saw duty in Hamburg this time round, as did the sausage-shaped mobile breakwaters, the waterborne equivalent of sandbags.

Most of the vessels and equipment used in Hamburg were provided by private enterprise. They included ships for mopping up oil with vacuum pumps that are normally used to clean tanks.

"None of the companies can afford to maintain ships specially to mop up oil slicks," says a spokesman for one Hamburg-based company.

"There are no government subsidies towards maintenance and we can only earn money when we are on the job."

Karsten Plog/Christoph Pock
(KStener Stadt-Anzeiger, 28 July 1981)



Cleaning up

(Photo: Sven Simon)

■ ARCHAEOLOGY

There's gold in them thar hills - well there was 3,000 years ago

Greek and German scientists, combining Herodotus and space research, have found ancient gold workings beneath the Acropolis of Thasos, an island in the Aegean.

Herodotus, the Ancient Greek historian, referred to the mines in a travel description 2,500 years ago.

Techniques of geological analysis devised for probing lunar rock, and thus fresh out of the white heat of 20th century technological progress, did the rest.

The gold mines of Thasos were first worked at a time when in the Aegean the Cycladic civilisation reigned supreme and most of northern Europe was still in the Stone Age.

A team of German scientists visited the island in September 1979, led by the late Professor Wolfgang Gentner, head of the Max Planck Nuclear Physics Institute, Heidelberg.

They were following up a hint made in a 1929 PhD thesis written by a German geologist, J. Speidel, who probed several ancient mine shafts on the island in a quest for lead and zinc ore.

Thasos is still well-known for its lead and zinc ores, but Speidel surmised from the high silver content of ore in the shafts he discovered that silver had been mined there in classical antiquity.

This assumption is supported by the large number of silver coins minted in the late fifth and early fourth centuries BC on the island.

Yet nowhere is there a historical mention of silver being mined on Thasos. Only Herodotus wrote that he had seen gold mines there that had been worked by the Phoenicians 500 years previously.

"Gold-miners opened up a large mountain on the island," he wrote. Herodotus is otherwise a reliable observer. Was he possibly mistaken on this count?

The German research team, working in conjunction with Giorgios Gialogou of the Greek Geological and Mining Exploration Institute, found well-preserved traces of tools and charcoal in Speidel's workings.

They were carbon-dated and found to be about third or fourth century AD. Laboratory analysis of slag found on the island indicated that at this period lead, zinc and copper were smelted on Thasos.

To learn more about the ore mined on the island the scientists took a closer look at antique lead objects such as the cast lead bars, the Ancient Greeks, and later the Romans, used to reinforce the foundations and stone walls of their temples and fortifications.

They also examined the lead weights of looms and fishnets and the leaden repairs to broken earthenware vessels.

Tiny samples were drilled from museum exhibits and analysed by highly sensitive equipment at the Max Planck Institute of Cosmic Chemistry in Mainz.

This specialised laboratory equipment was developed initially to analyse meteorites, space dust and rock samples from the moon.

Lead ore with an admixture of silver was incontrovertibly mined on the island in the pre-Roman period, the Mainz research chemists found, and presumably to refine the silver first end foremost.

But the silver content was too low, so

in later periods only lead, copper and zinc were mined.

The origin of ancient lead artefacts was thus clarified, but what about the gold mines and the mountain turned upside-down to which Herodotus referred?

Herodotus was sufficiently detailed in his description for the Heidelberg scientists to feel sure he could have been referring to one specific mountain only.

So that was where they started looking. But they kept losing their way in snake-infested scrub and were unable to locate the shaft and gallery entrances they had hoped to find.

After days wandering around without finding anything Professor Gentner and his team were about ready to call it a day.

Linguists had, after all, voiced doubts on whether writings attributed to Herodotus were invariably genuine.

And even if they were genuine, many others might equally well have rediscovered the old gold mines before them.

For centuries treasure-hunters have looked for treasure trove referred to in historical sources. Nowadays geologists often do much the same.

But an old Greek who as a boy had kept an eye on goats on the very mountain mentioned by Herodotus took the

Heidelberg boffins to a narrow orifice in the rock face.

It was the entrance to a complicated system of shafts and galleries leading about 100 metres into the side of the mountain.

They had only three hours left before nightfall in which to explore the old workings and take samples for laboratory analysis back home, but they were thrilled and delighted.

There were clear and unmistakable signs that ore had been mined there. They could even make out the soot-filled niches where miners kept their oil-lamps about 3,000 years ago.

Laboratory findings back in Heidelberg showed it really had been the gold mine Herodotus described. The samples really did contain gold, although very little.

Remains of charcoal and potsherds lent further support to the surmise that the 2,500-year-old gold workings had been rediscovered.

But was this to be the end of the matter? An expedition returned in May 1980 to examine in greater detail, survey and map out the geological data and mining features of the workings.

Further workings and a number of open-cast sites were found elsewhere

With German archaeologists doing more spade work in the Middle East the German Archaeological Institute has opened a new office in Damascus.

It was officially inaugurated in March as part of a field network including local offices in Cairo, Sanaa, Istanbul, Baghdad and Tehran.

The decision to resume digging in Syria was taken during the sequentary celebrations of the Institute in 1979.

The Damascus office will supervise activities in Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Its brief is to deal with the characteristic local styles found in these countries.

In cooperation with the local departments of antiquities the Damascus office is to undertake digs, soundings and surveys and restore selected monuments.

The findings of archaeological field work and the extensive stock of regional museums are also to be made accessible to the public by means of scientific documentation.

Syria in the wider sense, including Jordan, Lebanon and Palestine, is of special importance as one of the heartlands of early civilisation.

By virtue of its geographical location, midway between Mesopotamia and the countries of classic antiquity, Ancient Greece and Rome, it played the role of an intermediary.

At the hub of influence by a variety of civilisations a close succession of cultural strata were amassed here from the onset of early recorded history.

They left behind extraordinarily abundant traces in the form of archaeological material, which brings one to a further keynote of the Damascus office's research brief.

It is to trace the development of forms from the Roman era via the Byzantine and early Christian period to the Islamic epoch, from the Omayyad

Spade work in the Middle East

Ayyubid and Mameluke dynasties to the late Middle Ages.

In summer 1980 German archaeologists embarked on several long-term research projects.

Michael Melnecke is probing the development of the madrasas, or mosque schools, in Syria and the architecture of the Ayyubid period (12th to mid-13th centuries).

Andreas Schmidt-Collinet has started work on Nabatean architecture and its ornaments.

Since May 1980 historic monuments in Salhiyya, an area of Damascus dating back to the 12th century, have been systematically catalogued in collaboration with the Syrian department of antiquities.

More than 40 monuments have, in the course of this project, been surveyed and scientifically recorded for the first time.

From Damascus the office's role will be not only to trace the city's topographical development back to their beginnings, but also to document the numerous monuments in its environs.

Regional research will likewise be centred on Palmyra and its surroundings, the Syrian coastline and the Hauran heights of southern Syria, of which Bosra is the centre.

Research findings will be published in a special journal, *Damascener Mitteilungen*, and in a series of books to be published from time to time under the general heading of *Damascener Forschungen*.

The first volumes in this new series are due to appear later this year.

around the mountain, so it seemed to have been absolutely right.

Remains from 2,500 years ago not all that was found. So was a gold and wood carbon-dated about 1,000 old and a Byzantine coin dated 14th.

Differences in the mining technique used further backed the assumption. Greeks had followed in the Phoenician footsteps and in their turn, in the Byzantine era, been followed by others.

The Byzantine miners seemed to read their Herodotus too!

The German research scientists have felt amply satisfied if it has been it, but French colleagues want them to take a look at an extensive system of galleries beneath the Acropolis, the Ancient Greek city of Athens.

They imagined, given the prevailing of the stone in the old days they had come across an old iron mine. They had already published research findings outlining this possibility.

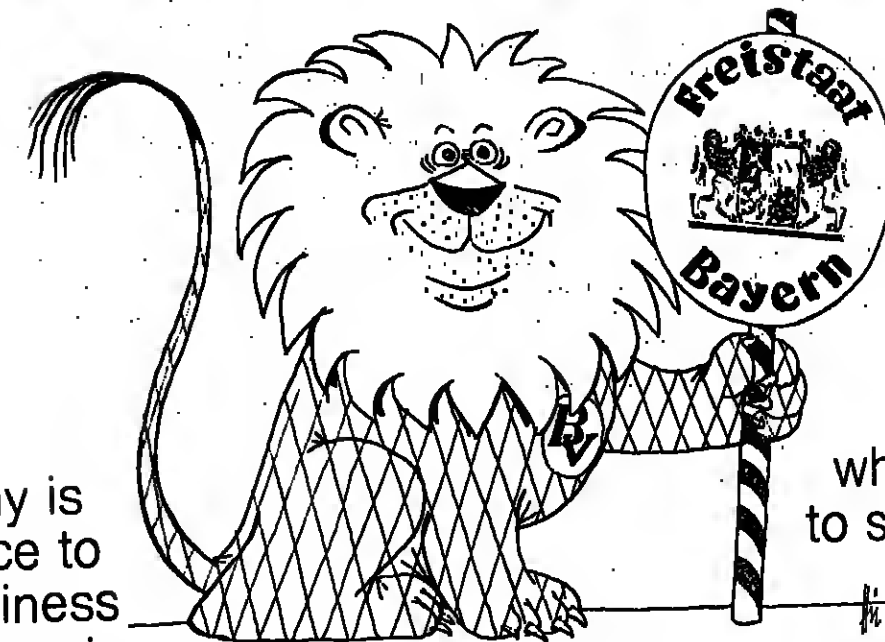
But the German team went to prove it was really an old gold mine. The Heidelberg nuclear physicists now convinced not only Heidelberg mountain was a gold mine.

At some stage the entire system of Thasos must have been a gold mine. Herodotus may well have seen the workings on the mountainside. They evidently impressed sufficiently to merit a mention.

The gold mine underneath the Acropolis of Thasos is nowhere mentioned in historical sources, however.

Luiz Scherer
(Hannoversche Allgemeine, 20/8/81)

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Statistically, there are not many diabetic children: just one for each doctor in Germany.

But that is still too many. Diabetic children need special help.

Often there are associated behavioural disorders which, in turn, aggravate the disease.

Dr Wilhelm Höpker, well aware of the necessity of psychological care and guidance for young diabetics, decided to do something about it. He started a boarding school.

As a hospital internist, he was constantly confronted with the children's problems. He found that many of them lived in families that were unable to understand the need for a strict diet and therefore did little to enforce it.

He also saw these children being hospitalised time and again; he saw their deteriorating performance at school and, finally, he watched behavioural problems develop.

A boarding school that would provide the children with a long-term therapy, teach them to live with the disability and at the same time provide a normal education seemed the answer.

Dr Höpker: "Compared with months of hospitalisation, a boarding school is certainly the lesser of the two evils."

In 1967 he wrote to the North Rhine-Westphalia interior minister, giving him a detailed organisational blueprint of the school he had in mind.

It took until June 1972 before the school took its first pupil-patients in its Länderscheid quarters.

But the whole project almost came to a premature end. In March 1973 the German Diabetes Society (DDB), the principal shareholder of the limited company specially formed, decided to discontinue operations for fear of financial losses.

The closure was averted in the nick of time when Terre des Hommes decided to take over the DDB shares.

Thanks to many donations, the school has managed to keep its daily rates down to a reasonable DM66.80 which the State Youth Authority is prepared to pay without a murmur.

In fact, the boarding school has worked so smoothly that it has managed to accumulate some money which will be used to build a new building needed as the waiting list grew longer and longer.

Additional funds have meanwhile been provided by charitable organisations and various North Rhine-Westphalian ministries.

Dr Höpker, who still considers himself just a plain country doctor, says: "They evidently felt that we were doing a reasonable job."

There are now 34 boarders at the school — two too many according to his strict standards but, as Dr Höpker puts it: "We can't just turn down a child that desperately needs us."

The new building will relieve the pressure.

The children come from all parts of the country as do the members of the medical committee — all specialists in the field, among them Professor Teller, a paediatrician in Ulm; Professor Weber, a Berlin paediatrician and Professor Federlin, a Gießen internist.

Medical care is coupled with normal school education and vocational training is provided.

Like other boarding schools, it has among its staff various types of teachers and supervisory personnel, though the

MEDICINE

Boarding school to help diabetic children



problems they have to cope with go far beyond those in normal boarding schools.

Many children sent to the school feel discarded and regard the boarding school as a punishment.

As a result, they are frequently rebellious and refuse to adapt to the daily routine.

Yet diabetes requires close cooperation if positive results are to be achieved.

The parents are called upon to convince the children that the sole function of the boarding school is to help them with the social, educational and medical problems caused by their illness.

Extracurricular care is as important as the academic side.

Children are accepted from school-going age through to apprenticeship.

In many cases younger children are more disciplined than the others and frequently have a good effect on some of the juveniles with distinct behavioural problems.

What Dr Höpker is striving for is individual responsibility. As a result, he has done away as much as possible with verbalisation.

Sweets are not forbidden on principle and children are sometimes allowed the more harmless variety like licorice and chewing gum. This also means that pocket money need not be controlled.

The ultimate aim is to make the children accept their disability as part of normal life. Every one of them — even the youngest and may choose meals from a set menu.

Diabetes is not yet curable nor are its causes known. It can, however, be taken for granted that, unlike with adults, a wrong diet and obesity are not its causes in children.

In 30 per cent of the cases the disease is hereditary (passed on by both parents) and in 70 per cent it is thought to be attributable to a virus infection or

damage to the insulin-producing cells.

Many children develop the first symptom — constant thirst — after a flu.

American researchers are making efforts to find the virus or bacteria which causes the disease.

Meanwhile, medicine is experimenting with the possibility of implanting a tiny sensor in the pancreas which would measure the sugar level and feed information to an insulin dispenser.

Similar research aimed at curing diabetes is now also in progress. For the time being, however, the method is the one used at the Länderscheid boarding school: insulin and diet.

The number of newly reported cases varies widely from one country, though the total number of sufferers is fairly constant.

Most new cases are reported in Scandinavia, Sweden and the USA, followed by Germany and Switzerland.

There are no exact figures for Germany but Danish statistics show a rise in child diabetes.

"Yet the number of families unable to cope with a diabetic child is likely to increase due to social conditions," says Dr Höpker.

Ute B. Fricke
(Süddeutsche Zeitung, 10/11/81)

One man's home another man's poison

A Bavarian school reported a similar problem which was tracked to the same cause.

But the Rosenheim Institute is not only a trouble shooter after the event.

Headed by Professor Anton Schneider, the Institute's ten physicists, architects, chemists and engineers concentrate their efforts on preventing trouble.

Encouraged and licensed by the state, they provide correspondence courses on a national scale to train construction biologists of whom there are by now 700 in this country.

The number of architects who have at least some idea of this discipline is ten times this figure.

The Institute also makes a point of counselling landlords, tenants, artisans and construction companies on better ways of construction and, ultimately, living.

Polls by the Institute show that one in ten people or institutions contemplating building are interested in this new "back to nature" movement.

Professor Schneider has come up with a few basic rules. Among the most important of these is that the four walls, man's other skin, in which most of us spend 90 per cent of our time should be made of natural materials that are unaffected by radiation.

Professor Schneider: "Some of our new buildings are almost 100 per cent plastic, made of materials that are incompatible with the human body. Small wonder, then, that health is waning and illness spreading."

The Institute advises builders to use plenty of wood, bricks, cork and coconut fibres or natural stone instead of concrete, plastics, asbestos, glass wool and similar man-made materials.

And instead of using cheap plastics and toxic dry rot protection, resins and vegetable colouring agents are the answer.

As superfluous as a hole in the wall, say the Rosenheim scientists, are the many types of plastic condensation preventers which only produce air can out with a knife.

Using natural materials will make air humidifiers redundant and would eliminate the dangers that common immediately after construction.

The Institute also provides fireproof, odourless materials, correct lighting and soothing colours.

The same goes for sound insulation. (75 per cent of Germans complain they are exposed to noise torture in their four walls) and for construction materials that emit no radiation.

But radiation need not necessarily come from the materials used in construction. Frequently it is due to earth's magnetism or to water in the underground.

The latter can easily be identified by the profusion of mushrooms, ferns, flies, willows and a number of plants.

Another clear sign is the strange shape of trees. Ants, snakes, owls, bees flock to these stretches of earth while chickens, mice and rabbits shun them like the plague.

Not everybody reacts to water. Some people feel nothing while others suffer from constant headaches, dizziness and cold feet.

The Rosenheim Institute employs water diviners in planning the siting of a house. Simple methods involve a directional spiral and a notion emitted by the house. The idea is to prevent at least the building from being wrongly sited.

This was the procedure used in the planning of an office building in Traunstein, Bavaria.

The building is now completed.

EDUCATION

Foreign students face new hurdles in university enrolment

Foreign students are going to find it much more difficult to enrol at German universities now the Länder are in the form of a sensor in an insulin dispenser.

Baden-Württemberg, for instance, Education Ministry in Stuttgart has issued recommendations, headed Meascheldt, to improve Selection Procedures for Foreign Applicants to Studienkolleg.

The Studienkolleg, or study college, is a university course in which foreign students are taught German and preparatory courses for a full German university career.

Measures recommended include allowing foreign students to enrol if they have completed all the application formalities in their own country.

They are only allowed to come to Germany once they have been given a visa by the university or Studienkolleg and with the appropriate visa.

They may no longer visit Germany on tourist visas to make on-the-spot arrangements; everything must be settled in advance.

Also, admission requirements have been revised for applicants from a number of countries, including Iran, Turkey, Greece, Spain and Indonesia.

Indonesians will have to submit a certificate of non-objection issued by the



Indonesian authorities, while Iranians, Greeks and Turks must submit documentary evidence that they have already been enrolled at a university in their own country.

Greeks and Turks must prove they have passed university entrance exams back home, while Turks will only be allowed to study the subject for which they enrolled in Turkey.

According to the Baden-Württemberg circular, dated 15 July 1981, these admission requirements must be forwarded to the Standing Conference of Land Education Ministers.

This department has been requested to send all universities final details of its admission requirements in time for the winter semester.

Interim regulations will apply in the meantime. Applicants who have already been awarded a university place can rest assured.

The amendments will in any case only affect a small number of foreign

students, who currently number 7,500 in Baden-Württemberg, for instance.

Most come from the United States and will hardly be affected. But Greeks are the second-largest foreign student nationality, and even though they are citizens of a Common Market country they will be hit badly.

There will be virtually no new admissions from Iran or Indonesia, it seems safe to say. Students from developing countries will only be allowed to study in Germany if they are in the clear with their home governments.

This, at any rate, was the view expressed by a Third World education centre in Stuttgart that is backed by various Protestant Church groups.

Political dissidents or groups hit by religious discrimination, staff at the centre say, are most unlikely to be allowed to enrol at a German university from now on.

The recommendation on foreign student admissions is said to have been ne-

cessitated by an influx of applicants, especially from the countries hardest hit.

Yet the Stuttgart Third World education centre points out that Bonn has undertaken to put up to eight per cent of university places at the disposal of foreign students.

As foreign students currently accounted for a mere five per cent of the student population the situation was by no means dramatic.

The introduction of what amounted to a special visa for students, subdivided for foreign students into two categories of natives and non-natives.

Students from Europe and North America would apart from Greeks and Turks, have little difficulty. Students from developing countries would face serious difficulties.

Minorities would be in real trouble, say black South Africans, Kurds, Christians from South Korea, ethnic Chinese from Indonesia and, of course, members of Opposition groups in their home countries.

The Protestant Church chaplain to foreign students says the Education Ministers' recommendation was made with a total lack of consideration or feeling for the situation of the people affected.

(Stuttgarter Zeitung, 30 July 1981)

Migrant children caught in a cultural no man's land

Migrant workers' children in the Federal Republic of Germany and West Berlin, second- and third-generation immigrants, have trouble with the language, at school and in finding jobs and leisure activities.

Public opinion is well aware of these practical difficulties; it fails to appreciate the enormous mental burden on young people who grow up between two civilisations.

But let me begin with a few figures: In 1968 about 30,000 children were born to foreign families in the Federal Republic; last year the number was over 100,000.

Fifty per cent of foreign school children, as against 15 per cent of their German counterparts, fail to pass school-leaving certificates. Very few go on to high school.

Last year only 44 per cent of foreign school-leavers who should have

visitations, two languages, two mentalities.

An 18-year-old Turkish girl says: "I think in German but feel in Turkish; I can't stand it any longer."

A German woman teacher has noted: "Foreigners are in the majority in my class and it has struck me that they have the same behavioural hang-ups and learning trouble as German classes for the educationally sub-normal."

Giorgio Langella, an Italian, and Brigitte Weiss, a German, are teachers in Freiburg. They are co-authors of a book entitled *Kinder aus dem Süden* (Children from the South).

It makes stimulating and provocative reading. The first point is that adults who decide to leave their own country and start a fresh and better life with their families elsewhere do so deliberately. They have at least thought it over and come to a conclusion that satisfies them. But the same cannot be said of their children.

The children have to accept decisions that upset them and they are not always able to understand. Besides, being uprooted is much worse for a child than for an adult.

It causes anxiety and insecurity, at times even rebellion or alienation. Once this point is taken, the answers to many questions are self-evident.

The shock of being forcibly exposed to an alien culture can have lasting repercussions, as educationalist Barbara Puhon-Schulz has noted in an interview: "A small Turkish boy, addressed in Turkish by a teacher, has been known to reply: 'I don't understand Turkish. What was it you said?' (in Turkish)."

A small Greek girl may suddenly pretend at kindergarten not to know the Greek she normally speaks at home with her parents.

She concludes that migrant workers' children frequently deny their identity in order to gain recognition.

So it is as well that attention is now

Continued on page 14

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Continued on page 14

■ DATA PROTECTION

Doubts over safeguards in youth survey

An opinion poll organisation has run into criticism over a survey it is making among young people.

The survey is to find out what the young think about their society, but the nature of the questions has led to doubts about how secret the data are.

Drugs figure prominently, and questions relate to their availability and frequency of use both by the respondent and friends.

The Infatest Opinion Research Institute, which is sending out the questionnaires, maintains that secrecy is guaranteed.

But Bonn Commissioner for Protection against Data Abuse Hans-Peter Bull is wary of the practice.

The questions are detailed:

- At what age did you (the familiar *du* is used throughout) first try drugs?
- How often have you taken them since that first try?
- How long is it since you last took narcotics?
- Can you get drugs within 24 hours?
- Do your close friends and acquaintances take drugs?

The questionnaires close with a request to return them in the enclosed reply-paid envelope, saying: "You need not give your name and address."

It is unlikely that any of the youngsters who receive the 12-page paper would have done so anyway.

More likely, they would have checked their replies again and in doing so they would have seen that the top of page one carries a code number that enables the Institute to check who has answered the questions.

If no reply has been received after a while, a reminder is sent to the potential

Payment details no secret, says report

Municipal welfare agencies are violating the privacy of hundreds of thousands of people, a broadcast by *Süddeutscher Rundfunk* (SDR) has disclosed.

According to the radio station, the welfare agencies provide full information in their bank transfer slips as to the purpose of the money, such as "social welfare", "food subsidy", "basic telephone charge", etc.

This practice, which has meanwhile been confirmed by the State Agency for the protection Against Data Abuse, violates the constitutionally guaranteed "social secrecy" provisions.

According to the data abuse commissioner, there are only very few reasons that permit a departure from the Secrecy Act — and money transfers are not one of them.

There is no reason why transfers could not use such references as "our letter of..."

Radio SDR also claims to have learned that the Baden-Württemberg transfer practice is also used in other states.

Hesse's commissioner for protection against data abuse, Spiro Sinitis, is also looking into the practice.

(Frankfurter Rundschau, 1 August 1981)



respondent — again carrying a code number and reading: "Last week, we sent you a questionnaire with the request to fill it in and return it to us."

"Since we have not yet heard from you, we would like to remind you of our research project and would appreciate your returning the filled-in questionnaire, which we once more enclose."

In the same letter, the would-be respondent is assured that "your name was picked at random and all provisions on protection against data abuse have been strictly observed. You can therefore rest assured that your name and address can in no way be linked with your replies."

A Cologne man had his doubts and wrote to Professor Bull, telling him about the opinion research drive.

The commissioner told the Cologne daily *Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger* that he was chary about the whole thing and that it was essential to ensure that all information linking the respondent with the code number be deleted immediately after the paper was returned.

Professor Bull: "It would be disastrous if a link could be established."

The commissioner wants to refer the matter to Bavaria's Ministry of the Interior (under whose jurisdiction the Infatest Institute falls) with the request that this point be looked into.

The commissioner also says that the Bonn Family Affairs Ministry, which commissioned the survey, must step in should it turn out that privacy rights are being violated.

The Ministry, on the other hand, rejects all responsibility, saying: "We cannot concern ourselves with every little detail."

Bonn pays one-third of the cost of the survey and the *Länder* the rest.

Some 2,000 young people in North Rhine-Westphalia were polled during the past few weeks and the results are expected to be available in mid-1982. (The Bavarian and Baden-Württemberg surveys have already been completed.)

The head of the project, Dieter Kor-

czak, told the *Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger* that secrecy was watertight.

The reminder letter, he said, was necessary to obtain as many replies as possible and to improve the accuracy of the survey. "As soon as the questionnaires are received here, the address is deleted."

Herr Korczak also tried to dispel doubts about the questions themselves, as for instance: "How do you assess our social order?" With the following answers given as possible: "Good or good except for a few points," or "In need of reform in most points," or "So bad that it should be changed completely."

According to Korczak, this was necessary to obtain as comprehensive a picture as possible.

Another question that has come under fire is that concerning income. It reads: "If you add up everything the people in your household earn, in other words, salary and other income less taxes, what would be the approximate net income of the household? If you don't know, give an estimate."

Korczak rejects all objections to this question. He has also announced that the Institute would take action against the *Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger's* critical article in a recent issue.

Asked what he meant by action, Korczak said: "We'll send you our version of the story to clarify our own stand."

A somewhat jittery reaction by a man who claims that everything regarding data provisions is watertight.

Michael Brandt

(Kölnischer Stadt-Anzeiger, 31 July 1981)

Migrant children

Continued from page 13

being paid to such problems and attempts are being made at kindergarten to probe difficulties that may affect foreign children's entire lives.

A five-year experiment launched in 1979 and financed by the Bonn government and the city of West Berlin is scheduled to cost DM11.2m.

Maybe psychiatric assistance will one day be generally available to help young foreigners to integrate. It certainly isn't yet, and the need is urgent.

Statistics sound an alarming note and, as one small Italian boy has written: "It is tough being an Italian here. We have a lot to stomach. We have next to no friends. Mum and dad are worried and hectic. But we must stick it out."

Vincenzo Arena

(Der Tagesspiegel, 1 August 1981)

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4m names on the register

The West Berlin-based Central Register that comes under the authority of the chief federal prosecutor, holds the personal data of some 4 million Germans.

Chief Prosecutor Kurt Rebmann told the press that it passes on data 24 times a day on average.

Some 5,700 items are added daily every day from Germany alone. The Register, begun in 1971, contains all criminal acts. It is naturally computerised.

It contains also the names of all who have been made wards of court and a number of other official rulings.

The Register also issues good certificates for private individuals available to all security agencies, including foreign security agencies.

But Chief Prosecutor Rebmann stressed that one of the Register's functions is to inform citizens about the formation of the data bank as well as the host association.

The Register issues 650,000 conduct certificates a month, and a year — it provided 12,000 hours of information to foreign agencies. The density here is rising.

Herr Rebmann attributes the stepped-up international cooperation in combating crime.

Incidentally, the number of Germans sentenced by foreign courts to around 10,000 to 12,000 a year shows no sign of changing.

But there is no connection between the number of foreign court sentences for Germans and the popularity of Germany with German tourists.

In 1980, Switzerland passed 1,885, Belgium 1,885, Holland 1,885, and France 1,136 sentences against German citizens. During the same year, such favourable vacation countries accounted for 43 sentences, Spain for 37 and Portugal for only 21.

But these statistics only prove the flow of information given to the Register varies from country to country. They do not prove the actual number of sentences passed.

These data also say little about the actual criminality of Germans abroad, which they contain only court records that have been reported.

There are no data on such trivial holiday offences such as speeding.

Ulf G. Schubert

(Der Tagesspiegel, 31 July 1981)

One man's home

Continued from page 12

occupied, and no matter what the side temperature, it is always cosy — both winter and summer. The stoneware building is heated by a tiled stove.

But what about the construction? Says architect Richard J. Dittmann: "We used only the best of materials, the price was ridiculously low, the building cost less than DM450,000."

The Rosenheim Institute is planning to build a whole village of stoneware houses along the Danube. The 60 village houses are to be shown in Berlin and only half the regular price.

Wolfgang

(Deutsches Allgemeines Zeitung, 2 August 1981)

SPORT

Records fall, but organisation problems plague world games for deaf

The fourteenth world games for the deaf, held with Olympic flourish at the Waldorf Astoria, Cologne, did not live up to expectations.

Waldow of the German association for the deaf, the organisers, had promised the games would be perfect. They were not. There were organisational troubles from start to finish.

Two years ago, however, Iran was who had been made wards of court and a number of other official rulings.

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Ulf G. Schubert

(Der Tagesspiegel, 31 July 1981)

The team were so disappointed they decided to go home early, but reconsidered when it occurred to them that that would only make matters worse.

Otherwise the performance of the deaf had much in common with international ratings in general, with the United States ahead of the Soviet Union in the athletics and swimming events.

In the long-distance events Timo Kärönen of Finland made all the running, while in table tennis the Japanese made short shrift of their opponents.

In the women's event, however, the GDR girls came runners-up to Japan. And in wrestling the Iranians reigned supreme.

In the track events Rita Windbrake of Germany was outstanding, winning the 400, 800 and 1,500 metres and helping the 100 and 400 metres relay teams to second place.

A 35-year-old Cologne woman, she was the most successful woman athlete at the games, as she had been on previous occasions.

In the medal stakes the United States finished ahead of the Soviet Union, while Germany, which four years ago in Bucharest came third, was relegated to No. 7, but still well ahead of the GDR. But appearances are deceptive. The

East Germans sent a squad of a mere dozen to Cologne, entering only for table tennis and athletics events.

Even so, one of the GDR women finished last in her 100 metres heat, which is something not often seen in international tournaments.

Yet the games were taken seriously enough. Alexander Potopalski of the Soviet Union, who came third in the decathlon, passed the hearing test (he couldn't) but failed the drug test (he was). Disqualified.

Records fell like ninepins, though. On the first day's swimming new world records for the deaf were set up in all six finals.

The trend was impressive and can be attributed to more intensive training and improved methods. But the more technical the event was, the greater the gap.

In the hammer a throw of 51.34 metres, or 168ft 6in, was enough to ensure victory. But the 30 minutes 24.87 seconds for the 10,000 metres was extremely good.

It certainly was for a deaf man, since the deaf have trouble with their equilibrium and are less able even to run straight ahead.

Better standards were accompanied by a greater show of self-assurance. The

deaf no longer wanted to be limited to the role of a meek minority.

Who could blame them for being annoyed at the Bonn President refusing for no reason he cared to state to open the games? Who could blame them for being upset at being reminded day by day that they were very much out on a limb, with an enormous and almost empty sports stadium all to themselves?

But the deaf are keen on the opportunities sport presents, so a European sports federation for the deaf was set up in Cologne.

"Sport," says Bernd Rehling, a Bremen teacher of the deaf, "is the most important cultural activity they have." Theatre and concerts, the pictures, records and TV are obviously to a large extent ruled out.

The deaf competitors, their team staff and fans from roughly 40 countries made the Cologne games a festival of joie de vivre. They were determined to make a go of it.

Fifty years ago the third international games for the deaf and dumb were held in Nuremberg. "Never," a report noted, "have there been such hard-working athletes so willing to subordinate themselves as these."

Times have changed. "We want no sympathy," says handball captain Wolfgang Schmidt, who is one of the few to break out of the isolation and qualify as a graduate social worker.

In a world that is growing steadily less capable of communication the deaf are determined to make themselves heard more forcibly.

Herbert Fischer

(Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung für Deutschland, 4 August 1981)

Piquet wins German grand prix

Nelson Piquet of Brazil was not meant to win the German grand prix at Hockenheim.

Two weeks before, he had crashed during the British grand prix at Silverstone. Agency reports said that a fracture of the left shin would keep him out for the rest of the world championship.

Piquet showed them to be mistaken. He was smiling as he passed the chequered flag in first place at Hockenheim in his Brabham, ahead of Alain Prost (France) in a Renault.

The win leaves Piquet second in the drivers' championship with 35 points, eight points behind the leader, Carlos Reutemann.

The reigning world champion, Australian Alan Jones, finished 11th after car trouble had deprived him of the lead.

Jones is in 4th place in the championship with 24 points, a point behind third-placed Jacques Laffite of France, who was third at Hockenheim in his Talbot-Liegier.

Piquet's real name is Souto Major. He took a pseudonym because his father is a public figure in Brazil, a member of congress.

Referring to his injury, Piquet said it wasn't a fracture. It was "just a slight bruise of the left knee. I was able to limber up for Hockenheim by sailing off Monte Carlo."

Piquet moved into the lead with six laps to go to the end of the 305.46-km (191-mile) grand prix. He overtook Jones, who had tyre and ignition trouble.

The Australian's tyre trouble grew worse from lap to lap. Goodyear were back in Formula One after several months' interval and their new treads were the problem.

But Jones, driving somewhat recklessly, was too confident by far, waving gaily to the crowd as he drove past the stands until his trouble started.

With four laps to go he blew his top, however, after developing ignition trouble in addition to the trouble with his tyres.

He fell back lap by lap, then came into the pits. When his mechanics were unable to fix the trouble he drove angrily past the photographers, who scattered for cover, with his hood open.

Then he noticed what he had forgotten, braked and stopped to have the bonnet put back in position.

His team-mate Carlos Reutemann of Argentina had to call it a day in the 28th lap. In the pre-race warm-up his Williams had lost water and Keith Duckworth, constructor of the Cosworth engine, had looked far from happy.

Reutemann is still in the world championship running but the Williams had a bad day out, watched by a Hockenheim crowd estimated at 100,000.

So did the Ferraris. Villeneuve of Canada finished 10th while Pironi of France retired in the first lap with engine trouble.

But the engine was not the Ferraris' problem; it was the chassis. Enzo Ferrari, 82, says his designers are to blame, having built a Baroque car, not an aerodynamic one.

"Amateurish," snorts the Commander in disgust.

The Renault Turbo had trouble too, much as expected. Arnoux had to come in to the pits in the first lap with tyre trouble. In the summer heat he was unable to regain the lost ground.

Sten Lundgren, 34, of Sweden took it easy in his German ATS, overtaking nel-

ther the engine nor the tyres, just as he had been told by his British team manager Alastair Caldwell.

But Egerud, who plays drums with Abba, the Swedish pop group, was still unlucky. He too had to retire with engine trouble in the 38th lap.

No German drivers took part, although Formula Two specialist Manfred Winkelhock, 28, wanted to compete, driving the No. 2 ATS.

But two factors ruled him out. Formula One regulations told against him. So did poor coordination between those who wanted to see him take part.

Formula One regulations specify that only 30 vehicles can take part in training. In Winkelhock's case an exception would have had to be made because 30 had already been entered.

But the authorities who might have been able to help failed to reach agreement. Automobilclub von Deutschland, the grand prix organisers, were no help.

Neither was Günter Schmidt, the owner of the ATS equipé. "I am doing nothing more in this matter," he announced.

Nor was Rudolf Henle of Liqui-Moly, Winkelhock's sponsor in the Formula Two national championships.

Britain's Bernie Ecclestone, head of the Formula One Constructors' Association, had already given his permission for Winkelhock to take part in the practice runs as No. 31. "There are no problems," he said.

But M. Balcetrate of France, representing the international racing authority, disagreed. "Impossible, quite out of the question," he said.

Otello Maffezzoli of Italy, the international motor racing commissioner responsible for Hockenheim, threatened to disqualify the German grand prix as a world championship event if there were to be any irregularity in connection with the German driver.

Klaus Blume

(Die Welt, 3 August 1981)